



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

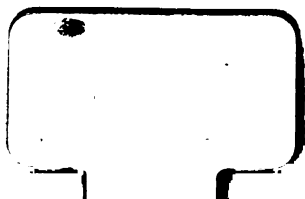
We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

A Memoir
of
Chirk Castle.



d

9

5/

A Memoir
of
Chirk Castle.

A MEMOIR
OF
CHIRK CASTLE.



From Original Manuscripts.

CHESTER:
HUGH ROBERTS, PRINTER, EASTGATE ROW.
MDCCCLIX.

P R E F A C E .

AS it has often been a subject of regret that there was no connected record of CHIRK CASTLE, the following pages have been carefully compiled from various authentic sources, comprising old MSS., &c., in the possession of Colonel MYDDELTON BIDDULPH.

It is therefore hoped that they will, in some measure, be found to supply, though imperfectly, the deficiency which may have been felt by those who, having visited this old Border Fortress, have had their curiosity awakened to know somewhat more of its history and vicissitudes during the "olden times."



Chirk Castle.

THE present CHIRK CASTLE is erected on the site of an ancient fortress, called by the Welsh "Castell Crogen," which Fortress is supposed to have been built between the years 1011 and 1013.

The valley beneath this Castell was the scene of the celebrated Battle of Crogen, between the forces of Henry II. and the Welsh. Powell, in his "Historie of Cambria," thus relates the incidents of the battle:

"In the year 1165 David, the sonne of Owen Gwyneth, Prince of North Wales, did destroie all Flyntshire, which was the King's, and carried all the people and Cattell with him, to the Dyffryn Cloyd, now called Ruthyn Land; which thing, when the King understood, he levied an armie in hast, and came to succour his castels and people as far as Ruthlan, and

after he had laine there three daies, and could do no good, he returned to England, where he gathered another armie of chosen men, through all his dominions, as England, Normandie, Anjou, Gascoine, and Gwyen; sending for succours from Flanders and Brytaine, and then returned towards North Wales, minding utterly to destroe all that had llfe in the land, and comming to Croes Oswalt, called Oswaldstree, incamped there. On the contrarie side, Prince Owen and his brother Cadwalader, with all the power of North Wales, and the Lord Rees, with the power of South Wales, and Owen Cynelioc, and the sonnes of Madoc ap Meredyth, with the power of Powys; and the two sonnes of Madoc ap Edwerth, with the people betwixt Wye and Seaverne, gathered themselves together and came to Corwen in Edeyrneon, purposing to defend their countrie. But the king vnderstanding that they were so nigh, being wonderfull desirous of battel, came to the river Ceireoc, and caused the woods to be hewen down. Whereupon a number of the Welshmen vnderstanding the passage, vnknowing to their captaines, met with the king's ward, where were placed the picked men of all the armie, and there began a hote skirmish, where diverse worthie men were slaine on either side, but in the end the king wonne the passage, and came to the mountaine of Berwyne, where he laie in campe certaine daies, and

so both the armies stood in awe each of other ; for the king kept the open plaines, and was affraid to be intrapped in straits ; but the Welshmen watched for the advantage of the place, and kept the king so straitlie, that neither forrage nor victuall might come to his camp, neither durst any soldiour stirre abroad. And to augment these miseries, there fell such raine, that the king's men could scant stand upon their feete upon these slipperie hilles. In the end, the king was compelled to returne home without his purpose, and that with great loss of men and munition, besides his charges. Therefore, in a great choler he caused the pledges' eies (whom he had received long before that) to be put out ; which were Rees and Cadwalhon, the sonnes of Owen and Cynwrie and Meredyth, the sonnes of Rees and other.* The same author adds further : " I find also written by divers, that in the assieging of a bridge, the king was in no small danger of his life, for one of the Welshmen shooting directlie at him, had persed him through the bodie, if Hubert de S. Clere, Constable of Colchester (perceiving the arrow coming), had not thrust himselfe betwixt the king and the same arrow, whereby he saved his master, and died himselfe for him presentlie."†

"And here," says Powel, " I think it not vnmeete

* Powell, 221. Roger Hovenden. † Powell, 222. Hol. 408

to declare the cause why the Englishmen vse to call the Welshmen 'Crogers,' as a word of reproach and despite; but if they knew the beginning, they should find it contrarie. For in the viage that King Henrie [the second] made against the Welshmen to the mountains of Berwyn, as he laie at Oswestree, a number of his men that were sent to trie the passages, as they would have passed Offa's ditch, at the Castell of Crogen, at which place there was and is at this daie a narrow waie through the same ditch—for that ditch appeareth yet to this daie verie deep through all that countrie, and beareth his old name. These men, I saie, as they would have passed this straite, were met withall, and a great number of them slaine, as appeareth by their graves there yet to be seene, whereof the name, Adw'r Beddau, or Pass of the Graves. Therefore, the Englishmen afterward not forgetting this slaughter, vsed to cast the Welshmen in the teeth in all their troubles with the name of Crogen, as if they would signify vnto them thereby, that they should looke for no favour, but rather revengement at their hands: which word in process of time grew to be taken in another signification."*

Pennant says: "The territory around Castell Crogen bore the name of 'Tref y Wayn,' the property of the Lords of Dinas Brân. It continued in their possession

* Powell, 257.

till the death of Gruffyth ap Madoc, a strenuous partizan of Henry III. and Edward I.* This Gruffyth ap Madoc,† called Lord of Dinas Brân (because he dwelled in that castell) married Emma, the daughter of James Lord Audley, and had issue Madoc, Lhwelyn, Gruffyth,‡ and Owen. Gruffyth ap Madoc (urged on by his English wife) took part with Henry III. and Edward I. against his own Prince of North Wales (Lhwelyn); and therefore, for feare of the prince he was faine to lie for his owne safeguard in his Castell of Dinas Brân, which standeth on the toppe of a verie steepe hill, to the which there is no waie but one to come. He died, his children being within age, whereupon shortly after ensued the destruction of two of them: for the said King Edward gave the wardship of Madoc (who had for his part the lordship of Bromfield and Yale, and the said Castell of Dinas Brân, with the reversion of Maelor Saesnec after his mother's decease (who had the same to hir jointer) to *John, Earle*

* Pennant, 270.

† Gruffyth ap Madoc was Great Nephew to Elise ap Madoc, upon whom Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales, bestowed, in 1202, the Castell of Crogen, and seyen townships withall.—*Powel*, 257.

‡ From the third son Gruffyth, to whom the portion of Glyn-dyfrdwy fell, was descended Owen Glendower.

Warren; and granted the wardship of Lhewelyn (to whose part the lordships of Chirk and Nanheoduy came) to Roger Mortimer,* third sonne of Roger, the sonne of Ralph Mortimer, Lord Mortimer of Wigmore. These guardians, forgetting the service doone by the father of the wardes to the king, so garded their wardes with so small regard, that they never returned to their possessions.† And shortlie after, the said guardians did obtain the same lands to themselves by charters of the King. This John, Earle Warren, began to build

* This Roger Mortimer had summons to Parliament from 1st Edward II. to the 14th, inclusive; he was Uncle to the "Gentle Mortimer" (Favourite of Queen Isabella), to whom "Edward III., in the first year of his reign, gave the lordship of Denbigh, in performance of the King's promise while in France, with his mother, for a provision of £1,000, and lands to a reasonable extent, to the said Roger, as soon as by God's grace he should come to the possession of the crown of England."—*Newcome*. "He was created Earl of March by Edward III. about 1328, but was soon after sentenced to death and executed. The title of Earl of March continued in the said family of Mortimer, of Wigmore, until it fell by marriage to the House of York, and so by Edward IV. to the crown of England. But the titles of Earls of March was revived, and translated to the Stewards, Anno 17th of King James I., and now rest in the family of Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond and Lennox, Earl of March, and so created August 9th, 1675,—15th of Charles II."—*Taken from an old manuscript*.

† See the Records in the Tower.—Pennant, who quotes a MS., obtained from the Bodleian Library, says, these two children were drowned under Holt Bridge.

the Holt Castell, and William, his son, finished the same. The lordship of Bromfield and Yale continued in the name of the Earle Warren three descents; the last dying without issue, the said lordship, together with the said Erldome of Warren, descended to Alice, daughter of the said William, Erle Warren, which Alice married Edmond Fitzalan, Erle of Arundell, in the which house of Fitzalan it remained three descents after the said Edmond and Alice. And then for want of issue, the said lordship fell to two of the sisters of Thomas, the last Earle of Arundell, whereof one named Elizabeth was married to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolke; the other, Joane, was married to William Beauchamp, Lord of Abergauenny, whose part afterwards came by a daughter to the Neuil, Lord of Abergauenny; and sithence it came to the hands of Sir William Stanley, knight, by whose attainder it escheated to the crowne.”*

“Roger Mortimer, Justice of North Wales (whom Edward I. had appointed guardian of Lhewelyn) builded the Castell of Chirke, and married Lucia, the daughter and heire of Sir Robert de Wafre, knight, by whom he had issue Roger Mortimer, who married Joane Turberuile, and had issue John Mortimer, Lord of Chirke. This John sold the lordship of Chirke to Richard

* Powel, 213.

Fitzalan, Earle of Arundell, sonne to the said Edmond, and so it was annexed again to Bromfield and Yale.”*

The Fitzalans possessed it for three generations, together with Holt, as above stated; after which it passed to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and Justice of North Wales, Chester, and Flint, in right of his wife Elizabeth, elder sister to Thomas, Earl of Arundel.† “On the disgrace and exile of Mowbray, in 1397, it probably was resumed by the crown,” says Pennant, “and granted again to William Beauchamp, Lord of Abergavenny, who married the other sister Joane, and by the marriage of his grand-daughter, sole heiress of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester,‡ with Edward Neville (afterwards Lord Abergavenny), was conveyed into that family in the reign of Henry VI.”

The next possessor was the unfortunate Sir William Stanley, who, as Leland says, “repayred it welle.” After his ungrateful execution, it was forfeited to his rapacious master, and was bestowed, in 1534, along with Holt Castle, by Henry VIII., on his natural son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset. By his early death, at 17, it reverted again to the crown. According to Pennant, it was granted in the following reign to Thomas, Lord Seymour, brother to

* Powel, 213.

† Ibid.

‡ Richard Beauchamp was created *Earl of Worcester* by Henry V., for his valour and services in the French wars.—*Dugdale*, 242.

the Protector Somerset—for he was in possession of Holt,* which had long been an appendage to the lordship of Chirk.

Queen Elizabeth granted it with the said lordship, together with Dinas Brân, Denbigh, and Kenilworth, to her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. On his death,† Chirk Castle became the property of Lord St. John, of Bletso, whose son in 1595 sold it to Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, Lord Mayor of London, in 1614.

What follows of this “goodlie Castell” and its worthy possessors is taken principally from an old manuscript preserved at Chirk Castle.

In the year 1612, Sir Thomas Myddelton settled Chirk Castle on his eldest son, Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, upon his marriage with Margaret, daughter of George Savile, of Wakefield, in Yorkshire, and being possessed of a great estate besides, and his family being numerous, well-known and considerable, and

* Dugdale.

† Lord Leicester had bequeathed his lordships of Denbigh and Chirke to his natural son, Robert Dudley, (after the death of his own brother Ambrose, who died the year after the Earl of Leicester.) The Star Chamber having given sentence against the legitimacy of Sir Robert Dudley, he took offence and left the kingdom, and, refusing to return, his lands were seized by force of the Statute of Fugitives.—*Dugdale*.

related to the other great families of the county, he soon became the leading man there, and was made choice of to represent the county in Parliament. But when the unhappy differences arose between King Charles I. and his Commons, he sided with the latter; and having sent a menacing letter to his countrymen in December, 1642, to submit to the Parliament, the King sent orders to the army to seize upon his castle, which was done by Colonel Ellis with above one hundred soldiers, in January, 1642-'3, and Sir John Watts was placed governor there with a garrison.

Sir Thomas having accepted of a commission as Sergeant Major-General of the Parliamentary forces for North Wales, which bore date 12th June, 1643, he in the November following, in conjunction with Sir William Brereton, took Holt Castle and some places in Shropshire for the Parliament.* December following,† he laid siege to Flint Castle, but it was not surrendered to them by the governor for the King till all provision failed, and then he did it on honourable terms. Equal power was given to Sir Thomas Myddelton for sequestrations and levying money in Wales, as the Earl of Manchester had in the associate counties. Having raised forces in London, by virtue of an ordinance of the 20th February, 1643-'4, backed with a new com-

* Whitlock's Memorials, 73.

† Ibid.

mission of the same date, about the end of May, 1644, he marched with them towards Wales, and at Coventry, meeting with the Earl of Denbigh's forces in the same month, he joined his party and took a garrison of the King's at Rushall Hall.* From thence advancing to Dudley Castle, they laid siege to it in June,† but were compelled to retire by a party of the King's forces coming upon them, with whom they had a smart action at Tyrton Green, and worsted them. Being come to Stafford, Sir Thomas received his new masters' commands to join all their forces and advance to the north of England. But at Knettisford, in Cheshire, they had intelligence that Oswestry was besieged by the King's party, upon which they called a council of war, wherein it was agreed that Sir Thomas Myddelton's Horse and Foot should, together with the Cheshire Foot, march under his command to the relief of Oswestry, which they did, July.‡ Col. Manower, a brave officer, commanded before the place for the King, with about 8,000 men; but on the approach of Sir Thomas, they quitted the siege, and were by him chased almost to the walls of Shrewsbury, though his troops did not exceed 1,800 men. Then receiving intelligence that Prince Rupert's regiment of Horse was quartered at Welshpool, in Montgomeryshire, he marched thither in

* Whitlock, 85. † Ibid, 86. ‡ Ibid, 90.

August, by night, and with the assistance of Colonel Mytton, beating up their quarters, took 400 Horse, which ruined that fine regiment. After this action, he drew out his own forces, consisting then of about 500 Horse and Foot, marching on with them towards Montgomery, in September, and with his Horse beat up the quarters of Sir Thomas Gardiner, in Newtown, took all his troops, himself and his cornet prisoners, and 36 barrels of powder, all designed for Chester. Within two days after they took 12 barrels of brimstone more, with other materials, in a town called Llanhydloes, designed likewise for Chester, which they brought to Montgomery Town; and drawing before the Castle, within two days they became masters of the stronghold, into which they had no sooner entered, but the King's forces besieged them there. Yet, after a fierce and doubtful struggle, Sir Thomas came off victorious, for which he received the thanks of Parliament.* He next attempted Powys Castle, and such was the resolution of the London soldiers upon petarring the gates, that to the astonishment of the garrison within, and contrary to all expectation, they entered the castle without the loss of one man, in October, 1644.”†

In another document of the period we read: “About 6th October, 1644, letters sent from Welshpool to

* Whitlock, 100.

† Ibid, 102.

London, which certified that the renowned Sir Thomas Myddelton had taken Redcastle*—a place of very great consequence, and one of the enemy's strongest holds in North Wales. The manner of taking it was said to be thus: The enemy in the Castle (whereof the Lord Powis, a grand papist, and most desperate and devilish opposer of the Parliament, was governor and owner also), did often oppose and interrupt them bringing of provisions into our forces at Montgomery Castle; whereupon Sir Thomas Myddelton summoned the whole country thereabout to come in unto him, and presently upon it advanced from Montgomery to Pool with 300 foot and 100 horse, where they quartered on Monday and Tuesday night following, and on Wednesday morning next, at two of the clock, even by moonlight, Mr. John Arundell, the master gunner to Sir Thomas Myddelton, placed a petarre against the outer gate, which burst the gate quite in pieces, and notwithstanding the many showers of stones thrown from the castle by the enemies, Sir Thomas Myddelton's foot, commanded by Hugh Massey and Major Henry Kett, rushed with undaunted resolution into the enemies' works, got into the porch of the castle, and so stormed the castle gate; entered it, and so possessed themselves of the old and new castle, and of all the plate, pro-

* Powis Castle.

visions, and goods therein, which was great store, which had been brought from all parts thereabouts; they also took prisoners therein the Lord Powis and his brother, with his two sons, together with a seminary priest, 3 captains, 1 lieutenant, and 80 officers and common soldiers, 40 horse, and 200 arms. The place is of much concernment; for before taking of it, it did much mischief to the country, and had almost blocked up the passages from Oswestry to Montgomery Castle: so that now, the strongest posts in all North Wales are in the possession of the Parliament, this castle being considered of strength sufficient to hold out a year's siege, and been able to keep out at least 10,000 men for a whole twelvemonth, it having at that present sufficient provision in it of all sorts for such a continuance of time. Besides by this means, the noble Sir Thomas Myddelton hath now the command of all North Wales, and can raise men there at his own pleasure."

We find the veteran knight equally victorious in his progresses through Pembrokeshire, Radnorshire, Cardiganshire, Flintshire, and Denbighshire, which latter castle held out two months longer than any other fortress in the principality.

On 5th December, 1644, Sir Thomas was under the necessity of besieging his own Castle of Chirk, which

was garrisoned for the King under the command of Sir John Watts, the governor. An occurrence during the siege is thus mentioned by the *Mercurius Aulicus* (a party paper of the day), dated February, 1st, 1644 :

“ Sir Thomas Myddelton is extream melancholie since his last entertainment at his house at Chirk Castle, where his pretious engineer’s brain was dashed out by a stone from the castle, which the rebels ever since call the Welsh grenadoes. This engineer’s death has so damp’d the factions thereabouts that a lady sent this form of prayer to one Mr. Lloyd (a sufficient brother) : ‘ O heare us, heare us, good Lord : how long art thou deafe ! Why didst thou suffer thy servant Tobias to perish ? Curse them, O Lord, and cursed be that creature which was the cause of Tobias’ death. Why didst thou suffer that Castle, which was the seat of holiness, to be possessed with profaneness and popery ? O curse with a heavy curse that great devil of Shrawarden (Sir William Vaughan) which doth torment thy children, and let all the righteous and holy say, Amen ! O Lord, bless Sir Thomas, thy holy servant, grant him that strength that he may overcome his enemies, and obtain his castle with honour.’ ”

The following letter was addressed to Prince Rupert on this occasion :—

MAY it Please Your HIGHNESSE :

This Gentleman iourneyinge towards Oxford, I most humbly beseeche Leave, to present to your Highnesse by him an account of a Late action of the Rebels : They Lately beeseiged mee for three daies ; their engineers attempted to worke into the Castle with Iron Crowes and Pickers, under great plancks and tables, which they had erected against the Castle side for their shelter ; but my stones beate them of : they acknowledged in Oswestry they had 31 slaine, and 43 others hurt ; their prime Engineer was slaine by the Castle side ; they are very sadd for him ; if your Highnesse please, this Gentleman will fully impart all the passages duringe the seige to your Highnesse ; hee was in the Castle with mee : I shall not presume to bee further tedious ; I most humbly kisse your Highnesse sweete hands, and will Ever bee

Your Highnesse most humble and

assuredly faithfull Servant,

JOHN WATTS.

Chirke Castle,

Dec. 25th, 1644.

To His Highnesse,

PRINCE RUPERT,

Humbly present

This.

[This Letter is still preserved at Chirk Castle.]

In February, 1646, Colonel Watts, governor of the castle, delivered it, furnished with bread and beer, to Sir Thomas Myddelton's daughter, for her father's use; but first raised contributions on the neighbourhood. He then marched towards the king, at that time at Welsh Pool, but was surprised by the country people, and his waggons taken.*

It appears to have been on the 22nd September, 1645, that Charles I. lay one night at Chirk Castle, on his way to Chester, and on his return from that city he supped and slept there again, Sunday, 28th September, and on the 29th he dined here, and then proceeded to Hatton, in Montgomeryshire. Prince Maurice joined the King with his own and part of Prince Rupert's horse, at Chirk Castle, 28th September.† Here the King learned the defeat of Montrose, his last hope, at Philiphaugh.

Thus have we accompanied the gallant Sir Thomas through a brief but memorable period of his life and England's history. It was now he began to discover he was undesignedly assisting in establishing a more intolerable tyranny than that which he had formerly so strenuously opposed; his zeal accordingly for the party

* Mostyn MSS. † Iter Carolinum.

cooled, and we find him in 1648 among the secluded members. And as before, his castle had been seized for the King's use: so now, the new powers grown jealous of him, put a garrison into it of which he could not get rid, till he had given them a bond of £20,000 and other security for his good behaviour; upon which they gave an order for the withdrawal of their garrison, May 16th, 1651.

The career of the veteran knight was comparatively quiet till the year 1659, when in concert with Sir George Booth and other Cheshire gentlemen, he declared for King Charles II.

The following letter from Charles II. to Sir Thomas Myddelton is copied from the State Paper Office:

“STOKE, 17th Aug. 1651.

“**S^R. THOMAS MYDDELTON**, my lord of Derby hath acquainted me wth your affecçons to s^ve me, and the bearer will let you know my condition, and the present opportunitie to attempt the recov^y of my rights and my subjects' lib[']ties. I desire and require you upon this occasion to declare and stirr for me wth all the power and interest you have, w^{ch} I am satisfied is very greate, assisting the Earle of Derby in th['] execuçon of his commission, w^{ch} he is now about, and in any other way you can advantage my affaires. This doing, you shall

“be sure of whatsoever he gives you hopes off from me, or shall
“p^rmise you in my name. I desire you to send me speedy intel-
“ligence of the condiçon of North Wales, wth what els you know
“that may concern my service.

Yo^r assured frend,

“CHARLES R.

“For S^r Thomas Myddelton.”

S.P.O

Domestic Interrequum.

No. 811. A.”

The Royalists being fewer in number, and not so well disciplined as the Republicans, were easily defeated by Lambert, who retook Chester, and made Sir George Booth prisoner within a few days after the dispersion of his troops. He shortly afterwards laid siege to Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, in his own castle, which after a few days' resistance was taken by the vigilant General Lambert, who in his despatches to the Parliament said, that he thought neither the man nor the place ought to be left behind him ; he should therefore march into Wales after him.

Sir Thomas, after making a show of resistance for a day or two, was constrained to surrender ; and accepted such terms and conditions as he could obtain, observing that it was to no purpose for one man to oppose the

D

whole kingdom, when all other persons appeared to be subdued.

The following letter was written by Lord Lambert concerning the surrender of Chirk Castle, together with the articles of surrender, sent to the Right Honourable the Speaker Lenthall, and by him communicated to the Parliament, Saturday, August 27th, 1659 :—

“ *SIR,*

I NOW give you an account of the surrender of Chirk Castle,—the last Remains of the Rebellion,—which this day was delivered to us upon the terms inclosed.

* * * * *

There was about 150 Men in this Place : great store of Provisions, both for Men and Horse, for many months : one little piece of Brass Ordinance, a competent quantity of Ammunition; the Goods and Provisions I have already ordered to be converted to the Soldiers' Use : and at the desire of divers well affected in this country, it being also the opinion of several of the chief Officers of the Army : Order that this Castle may be demolished, that it may no longer be an occasion of trouble and inconvenience to this country, as it often hath been. I have now no more to say unto you, but to beg of God a Blessing upon your Counsels and

endeavours; and that He will anoint you with His Spirit and Presence for Perfecting His Great Work in the World; and that you may finish your Course to His Glory, your own Comfort, and the joy and rejoicing of the faithful and upright in these Nations.

I remain,

Sir,

Your most faithful humble servant,

J. LAMBERT."

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made by and between Colonel Jerome Sankey, Colonel Daniell Axtell, Major Richard Creed, and Captain John Hatfield, Commissioners appointed by the Lord Lambert, Commander-in-Chief of the Parliament Forces in these Parts, and Colonel Robert Broughton, Colonel Richard Lloyd, Robert Grosvenor, Esq., and Captain Richard Dutton, Commissioners appointed by Thomas Myddelton, Esq. (son of Sir Thomas), Governor of Chirk Castle, as followeth :—

“Imprimis: It's agreed,—That Thomas Myddelton, Esq., shall the 24th instant day of August, by Ten of

the clock, in the morning, deliver up the Castle of Chirk : all Arms, Ammunition, Horse, Store of Provisions, and what else there is in the Castle, without embezzlement, into the hands of the Lord Lambert, or whom his Lordship shall appoint to receive the same, for the use of the Parliament. *Item*: That it is agreed by both parties aforesaid,—That the Governor, Thomas Myddelton, Esq., son of the Soldier,* and his Commissioners aforesaid, and Commanders, shall deliver themselves Prisoners to the said Lord Lambert; and upon good security given by them respectively, as his Lordship shall approve of, have liberty for two months, commencing from the day of the date of these concessions, to make their application to the Parliament for their money; and such of them as shall not obtain the Parliament's Favors to continue within their Dominions and Territories, shall have liberty to go beyond the seas; they acting nothing in the *Interim* prejudicial to the present Authority: Provided, nevertheless, that it is not intended that Lieut.-Col. Edward

* Son of the Soldier, Sir Thomas Myddleton.

Broughton shall have the Liberty upon security granted to the rest of the Officers aforesaid, until the Lord Lambert's pleasure be further known.*

“ Given under our Hands and Seals,

August 24th, 1659.

“ ROBERT BROUGHTON, }	{ “ ROGER GROSVENOR,
“ RICHARD DUTTON. }	{ “ RICHARD LLOYD.”

“ Saturday Afternoon, August 27th.

“ **R**ESOLVED: That Chirk Castle be demolished: and the Lord Lambert is to see it demolished accordingly.”

And thus, as in the service of his former Masters, Sir Thomas Myddelton set forth his losses in four years' time to £45,000, he had now no less reason to complain, for his castle, upon Lambert's coming before it, was surrendered, rifled, and ruined, and all his personal estate swept away; the damage done to the building alone was not repaired for less than £30,000; but as the King's restoration followed soon after, it prevented further ill consequences to him and his family.

* From “ *The Commons' Journals.*”

But the chequered and eventful life of the old soldier was now fast drawing to a close; and stormy though its course had been, it was destined to be ended in tranquillity within those walls, of which, owing to his public spirit and disregard of all considerations of self-interest, he had twice been dispossessed. He died in his own castle in the year 1666, at the advanced age of 80, and was interred in the family vault at Chirk. To the eternal honour of his memory be it recorded, that he provided the Welsh "nation" with a new edition of the Holy Scriptures, at his own expense. In the Gallery, at Chirk Castle, are two portraits of him, in which he is represented in armour, with a peaked beard.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, was succeeded in his estates by his eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Myddelton, baronet, so created by King Charles II. on the 4th day of July, 1660. He had a share in the latter part of his father's actions and fortune (though he in no way embarked in the former), for he commanded in Chirk Castle when Lambert came before it, after the Cheshire rout in 1659, and surrendered it to him by capitulation as before stated. The Baronetcy was the reward of his services to his exiled King, and so acknowledged in his Patent. There is still to be

seen in the Gallery at Chirk Castle, an inlaid cabinet of ebony and tortoise-shells richly ornamented with silver chasings, and paintings on copper from Rubens, the gift of the same monarch. Sir Thomas Myddelton served in Parliament for the Town of Montgomery, and afterwards for the County of Denbigh (upon his father's declining it through age). He died in July, 1663, aged 39. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the fourth Sir Thomas (the second baronet), whose daughter Charlotte married first the Earl of Warwick, and secondly Addison, the poet.

Sir Hugh Myddelton.

A SLIGHT NOTICE of Sir Hugh Myddelton and his great work of conveying the New River to London may not be here out of place. Sir Hugh, who was a younger brother of the first Sir Thomas, displayed unusual talents at a very early age. He first began to manifest his enterprising and benevolent spirit in a futile search for coal within a mile of Denbigh.

[What follows is taken chiefly from Williams's "*Ancient and Modern Denbigh*."]

The supply of Water afforded by the ancient London "conduits" had, in the reign of Elizabeth, become very inadequate to the wants of the increasing city, and an Act was obtained "to cut and convey a river from any part of Middlesex or Hertfordshire, to the City of London;" but was never carried into effect.

Early in the reign of James I. another Act was obtained "for bringing in a fresh stream of running water to the north part of the city of London," but the

difficulties appeared so great that the citizens declined to undertake such a project.

However, Mr Hugh Myddelton, a native of Denbigh, and a citizen and Goldsmith of London, who had amassed a large fortune by a silver mine in Wales, (Sir Hugh Myddelton being the first who caused the silver mines to be wrought in Wales), and who had urged the city to apply for the above-mentioned Acts, undertook to carry out the object. He made an offer to the Court of Common Council, in March, 1609, to begin the work on their transferring to him the powers which they possessed under these Acts; and, as Stowe says, "that man of honourable memory, Hugh Myddleton," commenced the work on the First of April following, entirely at his own risk and expense.

Various difficulties soon occurred. The art of engineering and the science of hydraulics were then but little understood; and he experienced many obstacles from the owners and occupiers of the lands through which the stream was to be brought. The springs of Chadwell and Amwell, where he commenced his operations, are twenty-two miles from London; but in order to avoid the hills and valleys, he was compelled, in his ignorance of hydraulic principles, to make the

E

stream travel over more than thirty-eight miles, occasionally constructing aqueducts over valleys, and tunnelling through rocks and hills. He, however, soon found that his New River swallowed up the £2,000 per month which he received from his Welsh mines, and petitioned for an extension of the time. With a fresh term of four years, he again set to work; and having adjusted the claims of interested landholders in a friendly manner, he was so reduced in finances when he had brought the water near Enfield, that he was compelled to entreat the co-operation of the city in the great and useful design. The city refused to grant him any aid, and he then petitioned King James himself, who, upon a moiety of the concern being made over to him, agreed to pay half the expenses past and to come. The work now proceeded rapidly, and was finished according to Mr. Myddelton's original agreement; and on the 29th September, 1613, the water was let into the Basin, now called the New River, which had been prepared for its reception. It so happened that, on the same day, Sir Thomas Myddelton, his brother, was elected Lord Mayor of London, and that he proceeded with the Recorder and many of the Aldermen to see the opening of the river, of which Stowe gives the following account;—

OPENING OF THE NEW RIVER.

“UPON Michaelmas day, one thousand six hundred and thirteene, being the first day that this River raune into that new Cisterne, there came thither with great joy to behold it, Sir John Swinerton, Lord Maior of London; Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, the Lord Maior elect for the yeare ensuing (brother to this Master Hugh Myddelton), and most of the Aldermen of London, and many of the chiefe Cittizens, besides multitudes of people, and were there entertained with musique, the chiefe or Master worke-men marching round about in warlike manner. The royall sound of Drum and Trumpets, and with Speeches and Ovations. And when the great Scluse of the Cisterne was lift up, and the River ran gushing, they all reioyced and gave God praise and thanks for so great a benefit; and as it were with one consent, they wisht the memory thereof might never bee forgotten, and went away with great gladnesse.”

It now only remained to convey the water to the various parts of the Metropolis, the expense attending which was considerable, and it was some time before the water came into general use. So little were the advantages of this New River then understood, that for the first nineteen years, the annual profit per share scarcely amounted to *twelve shillings* !

ITS COST AND REVENUE.

THIS noble undertaking cost £500,000,* and at its completion, the once wealthy and public-spirited Myddelton found himself a ruined man. "He

* Sir Hugh alone spent £160,000, and then parted with one-half to King James, and afterwards one-half of his remaining half, to parties unknown, reserving but one-fourth to himself and his heirs. The following statement of the dividends that have been paid will give an idea of the progressive improvement of the concern, and the value of each share:—

In the Year 1633.....	£3	4s.	2d.
„ 1640.....	33	2	8
„ 1680.....	145	1	8
„ 1700.....	201	16	6
„ 1720.....	214	15	7
„ 1794.....	431	5	8
„ 1809.....	472	5	8

Twenty years ago they were estimated at about £6,944 per share.

received," as Pennant observes, "the empty honour of seeing himself attended by the King and his court, and all the Corporation of London," &c. His own fair fortune being expended on an undertaking which now brings in to the proprietors an amazing revenue, he was forced to become a hireling surveyor, and was eminently successful in every place where draining or mining were required. He served in Parliament for the Borough of Denbigh, in the years 1603, 1614, 1620, 1623, 1625, 1628.

Sir Hugh died in 1631, having been created a baronet in 1622. Denbigh may justly be proud of having given birth to a man of such eminence and God-like benevolence.

On a small isle formed by the stream that supplies the river at Amwell, a tribute of respect was paid to the memory of Sir Hugh Myddelton, by the late Mr. Robert Mylne, surveyor and engineer to the company, and the celebrated architect of Blackfriars Bridge. It consists of a votive urn, erected on a monumental pedestal, which is surrounded by a close thicket of mournful trees and evergreens. An inscription appears on each side of the pedestal. That on the south is as follows :




Sacred to the Memory of
SIR HUGH MYDDELTON,
 BARONET,
 WHOSE SUCCESSFUL CARE,
 ASSISTED BY THE PATRONAGE OF HIS KING,
 CONVEYED THIS STREAM TO LONDON,
AN IMMORTAL WORK!
 SINCE MAN CANNOT MORE NEARLY
 IMITATE THE DEITY
 THAN IN BESTOWING HEALTH.

The inscription on the north is a Latin version of the above; that on the west describes the distance from Chadwell, the other source of the river, &c.; the east records its dedication as

A Humble Tribute to the Genius,
 Talents, and elevation of Mind, which conceived and executed
 This important Aqueduct.
 By ROBERT MYLNE, Architect,
 In the year 1800.

Swilym Canoldref.

APTAIN WILLIAM MYDDELTON, a poet and a soldier, was an elder brother* of Sir Thomas and Sir Hugh. He received his education at Oxford, but the thirst for military renown, and the wish to see the world, led him to plough the ocean, and “seek the bubble reputation, even in the cannon’s mouth.” He signalised himself by saving our fleet, when sent in 1591 to intercept some Spanish galleons, off the Azores. Philip II. got intelligence of the design, and equipped a fleet ten times as great, to frustrate our plan. Captain Myddelton remained three

* Richard Myddelton, the father, who with his wife Jane Dryhurst, was buried at Whitchurch-cum-Denbigh, had nine sons and seven daughters. Captain William Myddelton was the third son; Sir Thomas (the Lord Mayor) was the fourth son; Sir Hugh was the sixth son.

days with the enemy, until fully acquainted with their strength, and he left them just in time to apprise his admiral, the Lord Thomas Howard, of the unequal conflict and inevitable destruction which awaited him. He therefore took timely warning, and sailed off.*

Capt. William Myddleton translated the Book of Psalms into the twenty-four Welsh metres—an inimitable composition (so far as rhyme and alliteration are concerned), finished in the West Indies in January, 1595, as it appears from the note appended, *Apud scutum insulam Occidentalium Indorum*. It was published in London, 1603. According to Pennant, his “Barddoniaeth,” or Art of Welsh Poetry, was published in London, 1593. He is known among the Poets as *Gwilym Canoldref*, which is merely his proper name turned into Welsh. He became one of the most noted Bards of his country, and employed his leisure hours in exercising his poetical talent. Some of his Psalms

* Williams, from whose “*Ancient and Modern Denbigh*” these two notices of Sir Hugh and Captain Myddelton are chiefly taken, seems to think the Captain perished in the affair; but this can scarcely be, as the engagement happened in 1591, and Pennant tells us he finished his Psalms in 1595. The passage to which Mr. Williams refers in Pennant, may probably allude to the vice-admiral, Sir Richard Grenville, “who,” Pennant says, “was unavoidably left behind.”

were penned in his native country, others on the Atlantic Ocean, and others in the West Indies. Of him it may be said, in the words of Bishop Fell: "He was a pupil of Minerva, as well as Pallas." It is said that Capt. W. Myddelton and Capt. Thos. Price, Plasiolyn, were the first who smoked tobacco publicly in London. Capt. W. Myddelton died 27th March, 1621.

Pedigree of the Myddeltons
of
Chirk Castle.

PEDIGREE.

THE MYDDELTONS of Chirk Castle derive in a right paternal line from *Ririd*, surnamed **FLAIDD** (or Wolf) Lord of Penlhyn, Pennant, and Bryn, in Merionethshire (and as some say, of the Eleven Towns in Shropshire), head of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales.

This *Ririd* was descended from *Kynhedha Wledig* (or the Warlike), a descendant of *Beli Mawr* (or the Great), King of all Britain, and father of *Caswalhon* or *Cassibellannus*, who headed the Britons against *Julius Cæsar*.

But to return to *Ririd*. He was contemporary with King *Henry II.* and his son *Richard I.*; his wife was *Gwenlhian*, daughter of *Edvenet ap Kynnríc, ap Rhiwalhon*, Lord of Bromfield, by whom he had several children.

Madoc, eldest son of *Ririd* and *Gwenlhian*, married *Eva*, daughter of *Philip Dû* (or the Black), ap *Howel, ap Meredyth, ap Bledhyn, ap Kynoyrn*, Prince of Powys.

Ririd Vechan (or the Little), eldest son of Madoc and Eva, married Gwenllian, daughter of David Vechan ap Cadwalader, of Nannau, in Merionethshire. From this Ririd Vechan are descended several families in Merionethshire, who retain the surname of Vaughan (or Vechan); the present Sir Robert Vaughan, of Rûg, Nannau, &c., baronet.

Ririd Flaidd (or Wolf) was by his mother Genery, of Norman blood, she being the daughter of Haer, the daughter of Gilin or William, son of Richard Earl of Avranches, who married a half-sister of William the Conqueror; the other son of which Richard, called Hugh Lupus, being by the conqueror made Earl of Chester, as others of his followers were of other counties bordering upon Wales. It was thought good policy in these new lords to intermarry with the nations who were likely to prove troublesome neighbours if methods were not taken to cultivate a good understanding between them. But alas! what harmony could there be between a people flushed with conquest and a nation who by dear-bought experience found they were not to enjoy a foot of their own but what they could maintain with their sword. This being the case, then, between the Normans and the Welsh, no wonder if the history of Wales represents but one

continual scene of bloodshed from the time of the Norman conquest to the entire reduction of Wales by Edward I.

The family of which we are now speaking had their share both in the glory and misfortunes of a state of war. And David, surnamed Pothon (or Young Wolf), son of Ririd Vechan and Eva, signalised himself by his strength and valour, of which he had too many occasions to give proof, in the wars between Edward I. and Prince Llewellyn.

This chieftain changed the bearing of the Wolf's head in his coat of arms, and placed them in a *bend*, as a token of his having overthrown his enemies in the field. He married Margaret, daughter of Griffith ap David, ap Adha, ap Jorwerth, ap Owen Gwyneth, Prince of Wales.

Ririd, the son of David Pothon and Margaret, married Cicely, daughter and heiress of Sir Alexander Myddelton, Lord of Myddelton, in Shropshire, and Constable of Montgomery Castle, or as other authorities say, the daughter and heiress of Philip Myddelton, and grand-daughter of Sir Alexander, ever since which time this branch retains the surname of Myddelton.

By Cicely, Ririd had two sons, Philip and Robert.

These Myddeltons, of Myddelton, having been a very ancient family, it may not be out of place here to present to the reader some remains extant concerning their history previous to the marriage of Ririd and Cicely.

Sir Richard de Myddelton was Lord Chancellor of England in the 53rd year of Henry III., and died in August, 1271.

Master William de Myddelton, Archdeacon of Canterbury, was chosen Bishop of Norwich in the latter end of the year 1272, consecrated 29th May following, and died 1st September, 1288. Wickes in his *Annals* calls him,

“Generis nobilitate clarum,
Moribus et Literis conspicuum.”

Richard de Myddelton, a Franciscan friar, eminent in the profession of school divinity and canon law, at Oxford and Paris, flourished about A.D. 1300.

Master Gilbert de Myddelton, Clerk of the Council and Archdeacon of Northampton, was summoned to Parliament, 5th of Edward II., and so on to the 4th of Edward III. (*See Appendices A, B, and C.*)

Master Thomas de Myddelton, Clerk of the Council, was summoned to Parliament, 6th of Edward II.

Adam de Myddelton was summoned to Parliament as one of the Justices of the Assizes, 6th Edward II.

Sir Alexander de Myddelton, who lived 1282, in the 10th year of Edward I., had by his wife Alice, daughter of Hugh Lord Audley, a son, Sir Thomas de Myddelton, who was living 1294.

Sir Thomas de Myddelton had a son, Robert de Myddelton. Robert de Myddelton, by a daughter of Evan ap Meredyth, descended from Elystan Glodryth, Earl of Hereford, had issue Sir Alexander de Myddelton, by Margaret his wife, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh de Bowdler, Lord of Hope. Bowdler had issue Philip de Myddelton. But whether Cicely (who as before said, was married to Ririd, son of David Pothon) was daughter of Sir Alexander or Philip, is not agreed.

Having thus traced the Myddeltons to this marriage, we will proceed. From Philip de Myddelton, one of the sons of Ririd and Cicely, come the Myddeltons of Cherbury, where this family continued till the reign of James I., when Rowland Myddelton, and his son Richard, sold their estate to their kinsman, Sir Thomas Myddelton, Lord of Chirk.

Of this branch was Sir John Myddelton, who in the year 1488, was sent by Henry VII. with the Lord Brooke into France, with an army to the assistance of Francis, late Duke of Bretagne, against Charles, the

French king. Robert de Myddelton, another son of Ririd and Cicely, married Catherine, daughter of Howel, descended from Elystan Glodryth, before mentioned, by whom he had issue David and Ririd. Ririd de Myddelton, son of Robert and Catherine, who was living the 26th and 30th years of Henry VI., had by his wife Margaret (daughter and heiress of Griffith ap Jenkin, Lord of Broughton, in Shropshire)—DAVID, FOULK, and RICHARD.

David Myddelton, eldest son of Ririd and Margaret, married *Elyn*, one of the nine daughters of Sir John Done, of Utkington, in Cheshire. Of this David the following anecdote is related: That having gained this lady's affections, but not her parents' consent, she was bestowed upon another, which, David not brooking, he met the bridegroom leading his bride out of church, and killed him on the spot, and then carried off his mistress and married her that day: so that she was a maid, a widow, and twice a wife in one day. Their issue were Roger, Thomas,* Foulk, David, John, Edward, Elyn, Anne and Jane.

* "I mention Thomas Myddelton, another of his progeny," says Pennant, "only to prove that the custom of the *Irish howl*, or Scotch *coranich*, was in use among us; for we are told he was buried *cum magno dolore et clamore cognatorum et propinquorum omnium*."

From their eldest, Roger, are descended the Myddeltons of Gwaenynog, near Denbigh.

From their second son, Thomas, came the Myddeltons of Garthgynau.

From their fourth son, David, came the Myddeltons of Chester.

Foulk Myddelton, third son of David and Elyn, was Governor of Denbigh Castle under the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. He married Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Smith, Esq., of Chester, and by her he had several children.

Richard Myddelton, of Galch-hill, fourth son of Foulk and Margaret, was Governor of Denbigh Castle, under Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. He married Jane, daughter of Hugh Dryhurst, Esq., of Denbigh, by whom he had nine sons and seven daughters. He and his wife lie buried in the porch of Whitchurch-cum-Denbigh, where, by continual treading, the inscription upon their tombstone is worn out; but a brass plate fixed on the wall of the porch on which their names, with those of their sixteen children, are engraved, has preserved the following epitaph, and gives an account both of their ages, and the dates of their deaths:

Epitaph on a Brass Plate in the Church Porch
OF
WHITCHURCH-CUM-DENBIGH.

IN vayne we bragg and boaste of blood, in vayne of sinne we
 vaunte,
 Syth fleshe and blood must lodge at last where nature us did
 graunte;
 So where he lyeth that lyved of late with love and favoeur
 muche,
 To finde his friend, and feel his foes, his countrey skante had
 suche.
 When lyff did well reporte his death, whose death his lyff doyth
 trye,
 And poyntes with fynger what he was that here in claye dothe
 lye;
 His virtues doth enroll his actes: his tombe shall tell his
 name:
 His sonnes and daughters left behynd shall blase on earth his
 fame.
 Look under fete, and yow shall fynde upon the stone yow
 stande,
 The race he raune—the lyff he lead—each with an upright
 hande.

The “upright hande” alludes to the family arms on another brass once inlaid in a slab under foot.

He is represented as an Alderman kneeling before an altar, with nine sons behind him, and seven daughters behind his lady.

“She dyed the last of Decembe’, 1565,

Ætatis sue 40;

He dyed the viii. of february, 1575, Ætatis sue 67.”

Mr. Richard Myddelton was Lieutenant to the Earl of Leicester, in the lordship of Caledwyn in Rhôs, now Denbigh.

From Richard Myddelton, *eldest* son of Richard and Jane, who married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Pryce, of Llansanan, Esq., came the Myddeltons of Cadwgan Hall, near Wrexham.

The second son of Richard Myddelton and Jane Dryhurst was Simon.

Captain William Myddelton, the poet, was the third son of Richard Myddelton and Jane Dryhurst.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, was the fourth son of Richard and Jane, and father of Sir Thomas, the old soldier.

Charles Myddelton, fifth son of Richard and Jane, succeeded his father in the government of Denbigh

Castle, and married a daughter of Richard Bateman, of Haverfordwest, Esq.

Sir Hugh Myddelton, baronet, was the sixth son.

Robert Myddelton, seventh son of Richard and Jane, married Ann, *eldest* daughter of Sir Richard Saltonstall, Lord Mayor of London, and by her had issue. He was also a master of Welsh prosody, and left a treatise on that subject.

From Foulk Myddelton, Esquire, eighth son of Richard and Jane, who married Gwenhyfar, daughter and heiress of Rhydderch Wynne, of Bodlith, Esquire, came the Myddeltons of Llansilin. Foulk Myddelton of Plas Newydd was High Sheriff of Denbighshire, 1610. From his great grand-daughter, Plas Newydd, was transferred to the Myddeltons of Chirk Castle. Richard Myddelton, son (or grand-son?) to Foulk, was also Sheriff of Denbighshire; and Hugh Morus, in his poems, tells us "he suffered much in the service of his sovereign."

The ninth son of Richard and Jane was Pierce Myddelton.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, abovementioned, was an Alderman and merchant in London; he traded principally with Antwerp. He was Sheriff of London

in 1603, and Lord Mayor of the same city in 1614. He died in the year 1633 at a great age. He married—1st, Hester, *second* daughter of Sir Richard Saltonstall, Lord Mayor of London; 2ndly, Elizabeth Danvers; 3rdly, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Brooke, of London. His eldest son, Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, he settled at Chirk Castle; his younger son Timothy, at Stansted Mount, Fitchet, in Essex. His eldest daughter, Hester, he bestowed on Sir Henry Salisbury, of Llewennig, in Denbighshire, baronet. His younger, Mary, on Sir John Maynard, brother of William Lord Maynard.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, eldest son of Sir Thomas Myddelton and Hester Saltonstall, was born 1586. In the year 1612 he married for his first wife Margaret, daughter of George Savile, Esquire, of Wakefield, in Yorkshire. It was upon this marriage that his father settled upon him the Castle of Chirk. In our history of this Castle we followed this gallant knight and patriot through his active and successful career during the civil wars, when he was twice besieged in his own castle, and once compelled to besiege it himself. By his first wife, Margaret Savile, he had only one son, Thomas, who died an infant. By his second wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Robert Napier, of

Lutonlow, in Bedfordshire, knight and baronet, he had seven sons and six daughters.

Dame Mary Myddelton, second wife of Sir Thomas, was the most provident of wives and mothers; and after the death of her husband, continued her cares for the welfare of her family; she, surviving him eight years, died 1674, aged 76. In memory of this illustrious pair, their grandson (fourth Sir Thomas) erected a marble monument in the parish church of Chirk, representing both their busts; that of Sir Thomas with a peaked beard.

In the Gallery at Chirk Castle there is a picture of Dame Mary, and two of Sir Thomas.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, baronet, was eldest son of Sir Thomas Myddelton, knight, and Dame Mary Napier. In our history of the Castle we gave a short sketch of the baronet. He married—1st, Jane Trevor, daughter to John Trevor of Brynkinalt, Esq.; 2ndly, Mary Cholmondeley, daughter to Thomas Cholmondeley, of Vale Royal. He died three years before his father, in 1663, aged 39. He had five sons and one daughter.

Charles Myddelton, Esquire, sixth son of (2nd) Sir Thomas Myddelton and Dame Mary Napier, rebuilt

Plâs Baddy, in Ruabon, with brick. He married Jane, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Needham, of Lambeth, knight. She was so exceedingly beautiful that there were no less than six portraits of her by Sir Peter Lely, besides several engravings. She is "la Middleton" mentioned by Grammont; she had three sisters, one was Mistress to the Duke of Monmouth, and subsequently became Duchess of Bolton. There is an engraving of Mrs. Charles Myddelton at Chirk Castle, after Sir Peter Lely.

Sir Thomas Myddelton, baronet, eldest son and heir of (3rd) Sir Thomas Myddelton, baronet, and Mary Cholmondeley, was born 1651. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, upon leaving which he made a tour in France and Italy to finish his education. He was Custos Rotulorum, Justice of the Peace, and of the Quorum. In 1674 he was offered a coronet, which he declined in a handsome manner.

In the first new Parliament called after he was of age, which was in 1678, he was chosen to represent the county of Denbigh; but in 1680, declining the toil of public business, his younger brother, Richard (afterwards Sir Richard Myddelton, the other two brothers being dead, who were older than Richard) was appointed in his stead.

H

Sir Thomas died in the 33rd year of his age, February 5th, 1683-'4. His first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey, in Cheshire, did not live long; she bore him one son, who died within four days after his birth. He erected in the parish church a stately monument of Marble to this lady, representing her at full length, with her infant son in her arms. He married secondly, 1677, Charlotte, daughter of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, knight and baronet, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, and had by her four sons, all christened Thomas, but all short-lived, and one daughter, Charlotte, first married to the Earl of Warwick, and subsequently to Addison the poet.

Sir Richard Myddelton, baronet, fourth son of (3rd) Sir Thomas Myddelton and Mary Cholmondeley, was born 23rd March, 1654, and succeeded his eldest brother, Sir Thomas Myddelton, in honour and estate, and was besides, by his own purchase, Lord of the noble lordship of Ruthin Land. He was educated at Brazenose College, Oxford, being designed by his grandmother and guardians for a clergyman; but two of his elder brothers, Robert and John, dying, it was not carried out. He travelled much, and on his return became Knight of the Shire of the county of Denbigh,

and constantly represented the county in Parliament till his death. He sat in the Convention in 1688-'9, but was marked in the black list of those who did not come into the Abdication Vote. As long as his health permitted, he was constant in attendance in the service of the House, and never thought it an excuse for his absence because his friends were not numerous enough to carry their point, but looked upon it as his duty to divide upon everything he conceived to be against the true interest of his country. And no one certainly understood it better, for a singular penetration and sagacity of judgment made up his distinguishing character, and he would dive into the bottom of men and things. Take him as a statesman, you would believe he minded nothing but what related to the public; converse with him as a private gentleman, you would wonder how he could enter into the minutest details of a private life. He had that command of his temper, that whatever provocations he might meet with, he would never utter a harsh thing of any one—not even in his most private and intimate conversation—but if anything was said or done he could not approve of, his expression was: "I had rather others should do it than I." No great man was ever freer from oppression. He died the 9th of April, 1716, aged 62, and was interred in the family vault at Chirk.

His wife, Dame Frances,* was eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B., of Buildwas, county Salop. They were married at Twickenham, 19th April, 1685. Dame Frances was the widow of Wm. Whitmore, Esquire, of Hackney. This lady is in the Gallery of Beauties at Hampton Court (Sir Godfrey Kneller being the painter). The endowments of her mind were in no way inferior to those of her body. She died the 24th June, 1694, aged 28, having been the wife of Sir Richard eight years. She bore him one son, William, and two daughters, Mary and Frances, the youngest of which died an infant.

Sir William Myddelton, baronet, only son and heir of Sir Richard Myddelton, baronet, and Dame Frances Whitmore, was born 26th February, 1693-'4.

* The other daughter was Mrs. Langley. Their mother, Lady Whitmore, and her sister, Lady Denham, were the Miss Brookes mentioned in Grammont. Sir William Brooke, K.B., had three daughters and co-heirs. Frances married—1st, Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B., of Buildwas, county Salop; 2nd, Matthew Harvey, Esq., of Twickenham. She died, 1690, and lies buried at Twickenham. The second daughter, Margaret, married Sir John Denham, K.B., who died 1668-'9. She died 1666-'7. The third daughter was Hill, who married Sir William Boothby, bart. There is at Chirk Castle a portrait of Lady Whitmore, as also one of her sister, Lady Denham, copied from the originals by Sir Peter Lely, at Hampton Court.

“As soon as it pleased God to deprive him of his father, (which was at the age of 22,) he became a master of a family, he managed everything with the greatest exactness. His father's great humanity and compassion shone no less brightly in him. Besides his occasional charities which were great, he every day set apart a certain sum of money, which at the month's end, he delivered to the vicar of his parish, to be disposed of at his discretion, and with this money were kept a great many poor children in school.”

“In his will he restored the tithes of which he was possessed to the Church. But it soon pleased God to put an end to the life of the good-natured, the just, the charitable, the affable, the chaste, the pious Sir William Myddelton. He died 5th January, 1717-8, aged 24, and with him the title became extinct.”*

His surviving sister, Mary, ordered to be erected in the Parish Church of Chirk, a marble monument, representing her father and mother in a standing posture, her brother lying before their feet, and her infant sister, Frances, between them, in *basso-relievo*, with this inscription :—

* Old Manuscript.

NEAR THIS PLACE LIES

SIR RICHARD MYDDELTON, BART.,

Heir to the Virtues as well as the Estate of the illustrious of Chirk Castle, great in his descent, great in his Possessions, but in nothing so great as *in* and for himself. In whom were happily joined Politeness and Sincerity, the Courtier and the Man of Honour. He represented this County 32 years in Parliament, with the Penetration and Abilities of a Statesman, the Integrity and Firmness of a Patriot. He performed all the Duties of a private life with the endearing circumstances of Tenderness and Affection to his Relations; of Hospitality and Generosity to all. His Heart was so open to his Friends, and upright in itself, that it neither wore nor wanted any disguise or reserve; so full of Humanity, Benignity and Charity, that it excluded all Thoughts of Detraction, Envy, or Oppression. To these publick Honours and Personal Merits, was added the domestic Blessing of a most virtuous and beautiful Lady, (Frances eldest Daughter and Co-Heir of Sir Thomas Whitmore, of Buildwas,) by whom he had Issue Three Children, William, Mary, and Frances who died in her Infancy.

SIR WILLIAM MYDDELTON

Survived his Father just long enough to tell the World whose son and successor he was; being a Gentleman of such singular Rectitude of Manners, such strict probity, unaffected meekness,

disinterested Charity, and exalted Piety, as qualified him early for that Place whither he hastened to receive the Reward of his Virtues.

His Benefactions to the Cures of Llangollen, Ruabon, Llan-santffraid, Glyn Keiriog, Yspyty Evan, and this Parish of Chirk, will be eternal Monuments of his religious disposition.

			AGED
DAME FRANCES	} MYDDELTON died {	June 24, 1694.	28
SIR RICHARD		April 9, 1716.	62
SIR WILLIAM		Jan. 5, 1717-8.	24

To the Memory of her most Dear FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER, and SISTER, (who all lye interred in the Vault in this Church,) Mary Myddelton caused this Monument to be Erected.

In Wrexham Church is a very beautiful monument to the memory of this Mary Myddelton. It is considered a great masterpiece, and was executed by Roubilliac. It represents the entombed female bursting the bonds of death, at the sound of the last trump, when the rocks and tombs are in the act of splitting and rending asunder, to make way for the ascent of the beatified spirit, who is represented as a beautiful female, rising triumphantly from the coffin, the lid of which is split, and, falling off, adds greatly to the general effect. Mrs. Mary Myddelton died 8th April, 1747.

Sir William Myddelton dying unmarried, the baronetcy became extinct. The estate then fell to Robert Myddelton, Esquire, eldest son of Richard Myddelton, Esquire, of Llysvasi (himself the third son of the old soldier, Sir Thomas Myddelton, Knight). Robert Myddelton dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother John, whose son Richard was M.P. for the Borough of Denbigh, and married Anne Rushout, sister of the first Lord Northwich, by whom he had Richard Myddelton, Esquire, who died unmarried, 1796, leaving his three sisters (the youngest was only half-blood) co-heiresses :

Charlotte, the eldest, married Robert Biddulph,

Esquire, of Ledbury, Herefordshire, and Cofton Hall, Worcestershire; she had for her share Chirk Castle, and that part of the estate which lies in Chirk and Llangollen parishes, together with the Manor and Lordship of Chirk. The present possessor of the same is her son, Colonel Robert Myddelton, M.P.

Maria, the second sister, married the Hon. Frederick West, brother of Lord Delawarr, and received for her share the property in Llangollen, Ruabon, Wrexham, Llansantffraid, Llanarmon, and Holt.

To the third sister Harriet, were allotted Ruthin Castle, with its demesnes and the Denbigh property. She dying unmarried, her property came, by will, into the possession of her nephew, Frederick Richard West, Esq., late M.P. for the Denbigh Boroughs.

APPENDIX A.

FROM "DUGDALE'S SUMMONS TO
PARLIAMENT."

Summonitiones ad Parliamenta.

2 EDWARD I.

Rogero de Mortuo Mari, (de Chircke).

Eod. Ann.

Rogero de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

3 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirke).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

5 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

6 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

6 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

7 EDWARD II.

Roberto? de Mortuo Mori, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

8 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

9 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

11 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

12 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

13 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

14 EDWARD II.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

Eod. Ann.

Rog. de Mortuo Mari, (de Chirk).

APPENDIX B.

FROM "DUGDALE'S SUMMONS TO
PARLIAMENT."

Summonitiones ad Parliamenta.

5 EDWARD II.

Magistro Gilberto de Middleton, Clericus de
Consilio).

6 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilberto de Middleton.

Eod. Ann.

Mag. Thomce de Middleton.

7 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilberto de Middleton.

14 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilberto de Middleton.

15 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilb. de Middleton.

17 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilb. de Middleton.

20 EDWARD II.

Mag. Gilb. de Middelton.

1 EDWARD III.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton.

Eod. Ann.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton.

2 EDWARD III.

Mag. Gilberto de Middleton, (Archidiacono
Northampt.)

Eod. Ann.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton, (Archidiacono North-
ampt.)

Eod. Ann.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton, (Archidiacono North-
ampt.)

3 EDWARD III.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton, (Arch. Northampt.)

4 EDWARD III.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton. (Archid. Northamp-
tonia).

Eod. Ann.

Mag. Gilb. de Midleton, (Archidiacono North-
ampt.)

A P P E N D I X C.

F R O M P E N N A N T.

The following is the record, as given by Pennant, of Sir Hugh Myddelton's Parliamentary services, during the whole of which period he represented the Borough of Denbigh. Sir Hugh was not created a Baronet till 1622.

1603.

Hugh Myddelton, Borough of Denbigh.

1614.

Hugh Myddelton, Borough of Denbigh.

1620.

Hugh Myddelton, Borough of Denbigh.

1623.

Sir Hugh Myddelton, Bt., Borough of Denbigh.

1625.

Sir Hugh Myddelton, Bt., Borough of Denbigh.

1628.

Sir Hugh Myddelton, Bt., Borough of Denbigh.

APPENDIX D.

From the Original Records in the Crown
Office.

ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS BURNT IN THE
FIRE, 1834.

21 JAMES I., 1623.

Hugo Middleton, Villa, Denbigh.

1625.

Hugo Middleton, do. do.

1625.

Thos. Middleton, Jun., County of Denbigh.

1627.

Hugo Middleton, Bt., Town.

1640. (Long Parlt.)

Sir Th. Middleton, Bt., County.

Th. Middleton, Flint Boroughs.

1689.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

Eod. Ann.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1695.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1698.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County of Denbigh.

1700.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1701.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1702.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1705.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1708.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1710.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1713.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1715.

Sir Richd. Middleton, County.

1722.

Robt. Myddleton, Town of Denbigh.

1727.

Robt. Myddelton, Town.

1733.

John Myddelton, Town.

1734.

John Myddelton, Town.

1741.

John Myddelton, elected for County, but unseated on petition.

1741.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1749.

Richd. Myddelton, Town, made Steward of the Lordship of Bromfield and Yale, vacated his seat, and re-elected.

1754.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1761.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1768.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1774.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1780.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1784.

Richd. Myddelton, Town.

1788.

Richd. Myddelton, elected, but accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and Richd. Myddelton, Jun. returned in his place.

1790.

Richd. Myddelton, Jun., Town.

1796.

Richd. Myddelton, Jun., Town.

1806.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, Town.

1807.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, Town.

1830.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, Town.

1831.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, Town.

1032. (First Reformed Parliament.)

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, County.

1852.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, County.

1857.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, County.

1859.

Rob. Myddelton Biddulph, County.

APPENDIX E.

There is a tradition that at the time the Castle was besieged by the Parliamentary troops, a Lady of the Myddelton family threw herself down before the gateway, exclaiming, that before entering it they must pass over her body.

APPENDIX F.

The following inscription is copied from one under an old print in Chirk Castle, representing the ceremony of Opening the New River.

"SIR HUGH MIDDLETON'S GLORY,

OR

The first issuing of the Water into the New River Head, before the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Recorder, and a Worthy Company who stood to behold it.

"MR. MYDDELTON undertook to bring a river from Chadwell and Amwell to the north side of London, near Islington, where he made a large Cistern to receive it: began 20th Feb^r 1608, finished in five years. It was a work of admirable art, pains, and industry, by reason that all the grounds are not of the like nature, some oozy and very muddy, some stiff craggy and stony. The depth of y^e Trench descended in some places full 30 feet, whereas in other places it

was convey'd over Valleys, in a Trough, being born up by wooden arches, some of them fixed in the ground very deep, rising in height above 23 feet.

“ Being brought to the intended cistern, but not as yet the water admitted entrance into it, on Michaelmas day, 1613, accompany'd with his brother, Sir Thomas Middleton, the Lord Mayor elect, and Sir Henry Montague, Recorder, and many of the Aldermen rode to see the cistern and first issuing of the river thereinto ; which was performed in this manner : A company of Labourers to the number of sixty, well drest, and wearing green Monmouth Caps, carrying spades, shovels, pickaxes, and such like instruments, march'd after drums twice or thrice about the cistern, then presented themselves before the mount, where the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and a worthy Company of Citizens, stood to behold them, and one of them (in behalf of the rest) spoke the following speech :

‘ Clerk of the works, Reach me the book to show

How many Arts from such a labour flow.

First, here 's the Overseer, this try'd man,

An ancient Soldier, and an Artizan ;

The clerk next him Mathematician ;

The Master of the Timber work takes place

Next after these ; the Measurer, in like case ;

Bricklayer, and Engineer ; and, after those,
The Borer, and the Pavier ; then it shows
The Labourers ; next, Keeper of Amwell Head ;
The Walkers last : so all their names are read.
Yet these but parcels of six hundred more
That at one time have been employ'd before ;
Yet these in sight, and all the rest, will say,
That all the Week they had their ready pay.
Now for the fruits then : Flow forth, precious Spring,
So long and dearly sought for, and now bring
Comfort to all that love thee ! loudly sing !
And with thy crystal murmurs strook together
Bid all thy true well-wishers Welcome hither.'

"At which words the flood-gates flew open, the stream ran gallantly into the cistern, Drums and Trumpets sounding in triumphal manner, and a Peal of Chambers, gave full Issue to the intended entertainment."



